

TITLE: A Priceless Record

AUTHOR: Dino A. Brugioni

VOLUME: 25 ISSUE: Spring YEAR: 1981

STUDIES IN INTELLIGENCE



A collection of articles on the historical, operational, doctrinal, and theoretical aspects of intelligence.

All statements of fact, opinion or analysis expressed in Studies in Intelligence are those of the authors. They do not necessarily reflect official positions or views of the Central Intelligence Agency or any other US Government entity, past or present. Nothing in the contents should be construed as asserting or implying US Government endorsement of an article's factual statements and interpretations.

~~SECRET~~
~~NOFORN~~

Plants lay crushed like broken egg crates

A PRICELESS RECORD

Dino A. Brugioni

Without warning at 3:45 a.m. local China time on 28 July 1976, the earth shook throughout the heavily populated and industrialized areas of Hebei province, registering 8.2 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was plotted 8 nm SSE of Tangshan, an industrial city of over one million. It was one of the major natural disasters of all time.

The predominantly single story workers dwellings in the center of Tangshan and the newer multi-storied apartments of the suburbs collapsed with the initial shock, their stone and masonry walls killing an estimated 750,000 people and injuring another 800,000. Industrial plants lay crushed like broken egg crates. Seen through stereo photography, the devastation reminded photo interpreters of the World War II bomb destruction of German cities.

The Chinese government, typically, provided little information, although Hsinhua, the official press agency, admitted that "there had been great losses to people's lives and property." The Chinese buried their dead, hospitalized their injured, started a relief and reconstruction effort and spurned offers of foreign assistance—including that from the U.S.

If the destruction had been impressive, then the reconstruction effort was more so. In four years, Tangshan and its industries have been essentially restored.

The epic is graphically recorded on three rolls of U.S. satellite photography that comprise an extraordinary account of one of the tragedies of our time and a testimony to man's indomitable spirit.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

A Priceless Record

T'ang-shan Area - Earthquake July 28, 1976



SECRET

A Priceless Record

SECRET

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

SECRET

75

SECRET

A Priceless Record

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

SECRET

A Priceless Record

SECRET

(b)(1)

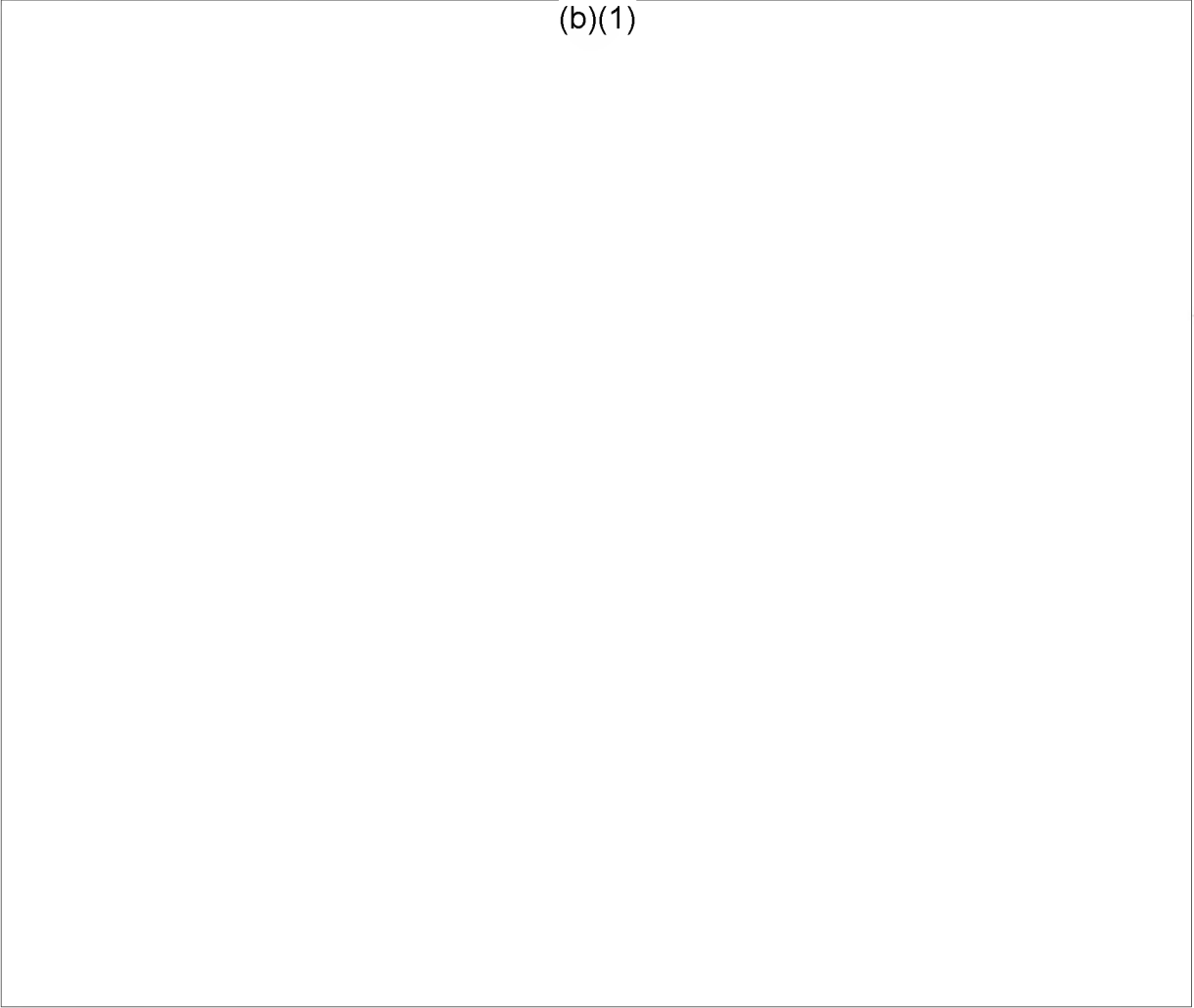
(b)(1)

SECRET

SECRET

A Priceless Record

(b)(1)



A Priceless Record

SECRET

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

SECRET

79

SECRET

A Priceless Record

(b)(1)

(b)(1)

SECRET